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MDEQ Public Hearing on Proposed Co.R. 595
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I have several comments regarding proposed Co. Rd. 595 from Kennecott's
Eagle Project to Humboldt Mill.

For the reasons below, I don't believe the construction of Co. Rd. 595 is either
in the public interest or prudent, and a viable alternative does exist.

First, Kennecott will need to use existing routes (Triple A, Co Rd. 550, U.S. 41)
until the proposed road can be built, and Triple A has already been
improved. The City of Marquette is beginning construction of an extension of
McClellan Ave. to Wright Street, which will provide a shortened route through
Marquette. The estimated cost of 595 (about \$80M) is about the same what is
needed to repair existing county roads. Kennecott will only guarantee payment
for 595 construction if it can begin by Spring, 2013, which is a very ambitious
schedule. Who pays if Kennecott doesn't?

Kennecott estimates (Kennecott Transportation Report) that 12
maintenance workers will be required to maintain 595 after construction. The
MCRC would presumably be paying for these workers (\$300,000 at \$25,000
each). Given the present unmet needs for maintenance and repair, this is
significant.

Second, the environmental consequences to wetlands are only slightly less than those
in the original Woodland Road plan. The EPA, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service,
and the Corps of Engineers all recognised that this is was unacceptable if another
route already exists. Further, the paving of 22 miles of 32 foot highway with
shoulders and fill to grade will leave a 200 acre footprint through this essentially
roadless area. The present fenced area of the Kennecott Eagle Project is 120
acres, so this almost doubles the affected area. This was not in the original
Mining Permit Proposal. The road and Humboldt Mill should be considered
under one comprehensive Environmental Impact Study so that the full
consequences of the mining operation can be assessed.

I oppose the granting of the MDEQ permit for construction of Co. Rd. 595. Thank you
for this opportunity to
comment.